

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application before this Preliminary Amendment. Applicants have canceled claims 1-18, without prejudice and reserve the right to reopen prosecution on the claims as originally filed.

Claims 19-34 have been added by this Preliminary Amendment.

All amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to subsequently take up prosecution on the claims as originally filed in this or appropriate continuation, continuation-in-part and /or divisional applications.

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments above be entered and submit that these amendments will put the claims in condition for allowance or better form for appeal. Antecedent basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification.

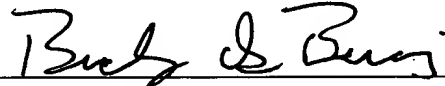
SUMMARY

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone or facsimile.

Applicants believe that no fees are due at this time. If the Commissioner deems any additional fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby requested to accept this as a Petition therefore, and is authorized to charge any fees due, including any fees for an extension of time, to Baker Botts L.L.P. (formerly, Baker & Botts, L.L.P.) Deposit Account number 02-0383, Order number 068354.1439.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. (031625)



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